

Tale Feathers

Nov 2003

Volume 70
Number 9

Inside

Take Back
Audubon

Take Back
Audubon Proxy

Conservation
Report

Two Rivers Work
Day

Birding Trips

Bird Seed Sale

President's Report

Bill Salsgiver

Audubon arguably has the strongest network of Chapters of any conservation/education organization. That network was built based on the dues share concept - which by the way, was started by the St. Louis Audubon Society, the very first Chapter of the National Audubon Society. To give you some perspective, our chapter's income has decreased by more than 50% over the last three years as a result of the reduction in dues share imposed by National Audubon. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an article dealing with the "Take Back Audubon" movement. This group is trying to reestablish the importance of Chapters to the National Audubon Society. Several months ago this newsletter included an article that presented the arguments in favor of this position. At its most recent meeting, the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Audubon Society voted resoundingly to endorse Take Back Audubon and encourage our membership to support the movement by returning the enclosed proxy. So, please take a minute to sign and return the Proxy found in this newsletter. We thank you for your support. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. And after you take care of that chore, get out and enjoy this great fall weather!



St. Louis Audubon Society

Committees

The following board members are the committee chairs for the committee following their name. If you are interested in helping out, please contact one of the following people. Phone numbers are listed on the back page.

Mike Grant – Field Trips

Dency Kahn – Education

Arthur Montgomery - Finance

Dave Tylka – Strategic Planning, Nominating

Joe Eades – Field Trips, Strategic Planning

Anne Bolte – Newsletter, Strategic Planning

Mitch Leachman – Programs, Two Rivers NWR

Jerry Miller – Finance, Strategic Planning, Nominating

Sharon Nickl - Education

Dave Pierce – Bird Seed Sale, Web Site

Pat Lueders – Field Trips

Mike Thelen – Field Trips, Strategic Planning

Linda Tossing – Strategic Planning

Anne Rankin Horton – Membership, Bird Seed Sale, Web Site

John Solodar – Field Trips, Riverlands

Cathy Devine - Membership

Holiday Open House at the Green Center

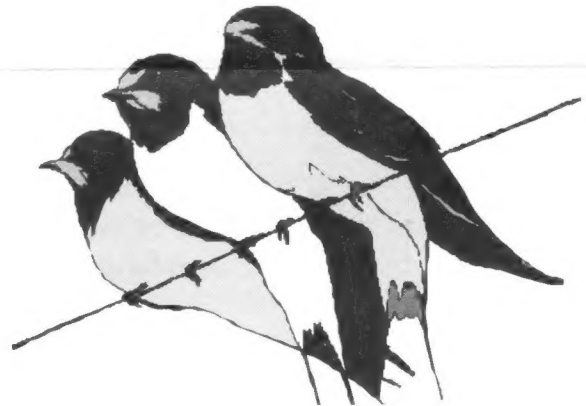
December 7, 2003 from 1-4 p.m.
8025 Blackberry Ave., University City

The St. Louis Audubon Society and the Webster Groves Nature Study Society are invited to gather at the Green Center in University City to celebrate the holidays. The Center offers a congenial atmosphere of meeting rooms complemented by a full kitchen. If weather permits, the Green Center staff will offer tours of their outdoor space. The Green Center serves its surrounding community as a natural laboratory and cultural gathering place with youth programs, nature workshops and herb and prairie gardens in the heart of University City. Its mission is conservation, education and enjoyment of the natural world.

Our memberships are enhanced by talented writers of nature related books. All of our authors are invited to bring copies of their work to sell at the party. An autographed book makes a handsome holiday gift, a solution for your shopping dilemmas.

Please bring an appetizer, dessert or a casserole to share. The Center's kitchen will provide an oven or microwave for warming food. Beverages will be provided.

Directions from Highway 40: Turn north on Hanley Rd. and continue to Delmar Blvd. Continue on Hanley Rd to Blackberry Ave., the fourth street north of Delmar. Turn left on Blackberry Ave. (west). Parking is available in the Kaufman Park parking lot next to the Center.



Two Rivers NWR Work Day November 16

Join us on Sunday, November 16 as we work to restore the natural character of the Gilbert and Swan Lake areas of Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge outside Grafton, Illinois.

This will be our only work day this fall and there is plenty to keep us busy. From general maintenance tasks to trash clean up to willow removal-the bigger the group, the more we get done.

We will work from 10a to 2p, with lunch afterward in Grafton. Bring gloves, boots, and drinking water.

Call Mitch Leachman at (314) 739-5112 for more info and to sign up.

St Louis Audubon Society's Bi-Annual Birdseed Sales

Friday, November 14th from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.
Saturday, November 15th from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Order for the early winter season and be the first on your block to start seeing the flocks migrate to your feeders. Order by Tuesday, November 11th for the 14th and 15th pickup. Seed must be picked by November 17th at the latest unless other arrangements have been made.

Make check payable to St Louis Audubon Society and mail to:
Anne Rankin Horton
718 Inglestone Court
Manchester, MO 63021
(636) 256-3402

Pick up will be at the Wild Bird Center in Creve Coeur:
12792 Olive Boulevard
Bellerive Plaza
Creve Coeur, MO 63141
(314) 439-9453

Wild Bird Center is located approximately two mile west of I-270 near Mason Road and Timber Run in the Bellerive Plaza. Look for the store between Schnucks and Silkys. Any Audubon member who would like to shop during this time gets a 10 % discount off any merchandise purchased at the store.

Birdseed Order Form

Make check payable to: St Louis Audubon Society and mail to:

Anne Rankin Horton
718 Inglestone Court
Manchester, MO 63021
(636) 256-3402

NOTE: Order must be received by Tuesday, November 11th for processing

Bird Seed Type	Lbs/Bag	Qty	Cost	Subtotal
Black Oil Sunflower	25 lb	_____	\$11	_____
	50 lb	_____	\$20	_____
No-Waste Mix				
no milo, has hulls	25 lb	_____	\$9	_____
	50 lb	_____	\$15	_____
Premium No-Waste				
no milo, no hulls	20 lb	_____	\$10	_____
	40 lb	_____	\$18	_____
SafflowerSeed	25 lb	_____	\$24	_____
	50 lb	_____	\$43	_____
Thistle/Niger	10 lb	_____	\$15	_____
				Total _____
Name _____				
Address _____				

Phone _____				

All proceeds from the birdseed sale fund education outreach programs.

'TAKE BACK AUDUBON' GROUP SEEKS PROXIES

As many Auduboners are aware, the National Audubon Society has made changes in its relationship with local Chapters that have significantly impacted Chapter finances, and the role of the Audubon grassroots in our organization.

In 2000, the NAS Board of Directors changed the long-standing policy of sharing membership dues with Chapters. Under the new policy that will be fully implemented this year, the dues share will drop to near zero for most Chapters. This loss of revenue has forced Chapters to cut back on newsletters and to reduce their conservation and education activities—the most effective activism in all of Audubon.

In 2001, the NAS Board enacted a new Chapter Policy over the written objections of 74 Chapters and over 88 Chapter leaders who signed on to a letter urging the Board to reconsider this policy. The letter asked NAS to engage in a true dialogue over this document and to seek a policy "that meets the needs of ALL of Audubon, including Chapters".

At the 2002 Annual Meeting, the NAS leadership voted down resolutions brought by Chapter members to reform the governance of NAS by providing for access to information, competitive elections, and a greater voice for Audubon members and Chapters.

In addition, National Audubon has embarked on a major effort to establish hundreds of Audubon Centers, which many Chapter leaders fear will ultimately replace Chapters by draining funds and volunteers from local conservation work. A number of Chapters have already had serious conflicts with NAS over this issue.

In response to these actions by NAS, a grassroots organization, 'Take Back Audubon' (TBA) has sprung up, whose mission is "to restore a true partnership between the independent Chapters and the National Audubon Society through a real voice in the NAS organization and in all decisions that affect Chapters". To date, 37 Audubon Chapters and over 100 Chapter leaders have endorsed Take Back Audubon.

Presently, TBA is engaged in an effort to elect an alternate slate of candidates to the NAS Board of Directors at this year's Annual Meeting on Dec. 6, 2003. They are seeking proxies from Audubon members to bring to the meeting to vote for this slate, and to support resolutions that will be presented to democratize Audubon and to restore the Chapter dues share.

The TBA slate is made up of Chapter leaders that will give Audubon members a choice, by offering candidates that will stand up for the interests of local Chapters. The candidates are:

Charles Bragg, Santa Monica Bay Audubon Soc. (CA); 310-454-9662; cgbaggjr@worldnet.att.net
Marsha Cannon, Madison Audubon Soc. (WI); 608-251-1276; mpcannon@charter.net
John Gallagher, Clark County Audubon Soc. (OH); 937-323-0782; jfg4@msn.com
Andrew Mason, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Soc. (NY); 607-652-2162; AndyMason@earthling.net

Cary Meister, Yuma Audubon Soc. (AZ); 928-782-3552; cwm4@mindspring.com
Pat Rasmussen, Leavenworth Audubon Adopt-a-Forest (WA); 509-548-7640; patr@crcwnet.com
Tony Wagner, Buffalo Audubon Society (NY); 716-754-4231; twagner@adelphia.net
Darrel Whipple, Willapa Hills Audubon Soc. (OR); 503-556-9838; dwhipple@columbia-center.org
Jennifer Wilson-Pines, North Shore Audubon Soc. (NY); 516-767-3454; jwpines@juno.com

In addition, TBA is endorsing this year's regionally-nominated Chapter candidates:

Ione Werthman, Audubon Soc. of Omaha (NE)
John Whittle, Golden Triangle Audubon Soc. (TX)
Steven Zimmerman, Juneau Audubon Society (AK)

Biographies of the candidates, copies of the proposed resolutions, and background information on Take Back Audubon can be found at www.smbas.org/tba.

A Take Back Audubon proxy form can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. To support this Audubon Chapter effort, complete the form and return to the address listed by November 30, 2003. Members are also asked to not return the NAS proxy that will be arriving in a few weeks.

For further information, please visit the TBA web site (above), or contact any of the TBA candidates.



Got Questions?

We have the answers! Call our phone answer line at 314.822.6595 for answers to any of your bird questions; our volunteers will be happy to help.



PROXY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that I, the undersigned, a member of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC., do hereby constitute and appoint Marsha Cannon, John F. Gallagher, Andrew L. Mason, and Darrel K. Whipple, and each of them, with full power of substitution, my attorneys and agents for me and in my name, place and stead, to vote as my proxy the number of votes I should be able to cast if then personally present at the Annual Meeting of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC., to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Saturday, December 6, 2003, or at such other place and time as said Annual Meeting may be held, and at any adjourned meeting thereof as follows:

(a.) For the election of directors for the terms expiring in 2006, or until their successors are elected; and

(b.) In their discretion, for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____ Two Thousand and Three.

Signed _____ Address _____
(must be signed to be valid)

Name _____
(please print name)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING PROXY

1. Insert date of signing.
2. Print name exactly as membership is carried and shown on your magazine label. You must be a National Audubon Soc. member in good standing, as of Oct. 17, 2003 in order to vote.
3. Proxy to be signed by person in whose name membership is carried. If carried in two names or as Mr. & Mrs., either party can sign.
4. Show current address and zip code.
5. SIGN ONLY ONE PROXY FORM. DO NOT SIGN ANY OTHER PROXY FORM YOU MIGHT RECEIVE. HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SIGNED A PROXY FORM, THIS FORM WILL SUPERSEDE ANY EARLIER FORM.
6. Return signed proxy form by NOVEMBER 30 to: John F. Gallagher, 121 Larchmont Road, Springfield, Ohio 45503.

Birding Trips for November and December

John Solodar

Nov 2, Sunday - A WGNSS trip led by Mike Thelen at Shaw Nature Reserve at 7:30 AM. Plan for 3 1/2 mile hike and bring lunch if you plan to continue to Robertsville State park in afternoon.

Nov 8, Saturday - SLAS trip to Horseshoe Lake starts at 8:00 AM to look for gulls, ducks and sparrows and whatever else may be migrating through late in the season. This trip will be led by Paul Bauer and Torrey Berger.

Nov 16, Sunday - Kent Lannert will lead a WGNSS trip at Horseshoe Lake starting at 8:00 AM.

Nov 22, Saturday - SLAS trip to Busch Conservation Area and Weldon Springs starting at 8:00 AM. Lots of winter birds should be here by now and we may see Harris' Sparrow, both nuthatches and other interesting land birds. The lakes should offer a variety of gulls and ducks. This trip will be led by Mike Thelen and Mike Grant.

Dec 7, Sunday - WGNSS trip to Riverlands starts at 8:00 am and is led by Dave Rogles. Expect to see Bald Eagles plus lots of gulls and ducks, maybe including some rare ones.

Dec 13, Saturday - Dave Rogles knows the Riverlands area very well and leads this SLAS trip starting at the more pleasant time of 9:00 AM. Dress warmly as Riverlands can be one of the coldest places on earth during the winter.

Dec 21, Sunday - Kent Lannert leads a WGNSS trip to Baldwin Lake in Illinois. Meet at the boat launch parking lot at 8:00 AM and dress warmly as the Baldwin Lake area can be very cold and windy.

How to get there

Horseshoe Lake - Take I-70 east across the Poplar Street Bridge. Exit at Hwy 111 (exit 6) and turn left. Go about 2 miles to the State Park entrance (on the left). Meet at 1st parking lot on the right.

Busch Conservation Area - Take U.S.40/I-64 west into St. Charles County. Take Hwy 94 south from U.S 40 about 1 mile to Hwy D. Turn right and go about 1.5 miles to the entrance on the right. Turn left at the "T" to Hampton Lake and meet in the parking lot.

Riverlands - Take Hwy 367 north from I-270. The designation changes to Hwy 67 just beyond the 4th traffic light, but continue. Turn right on last road just before the Clark Bridge at the Mississippi River. (Fisca gas station at this turn.) Turn right on the first road and park in the Teal Pond parking lot.

Shaw Nature Reserve - I-44 west from I-270 to Gray Summit exit (Hwy 100). Cross over I-44 on Hwy 100. Follow Hwy 100 west one block to the entrance. (\$3.00 per person entrance fee for non-members of Missouri Botanical Garden.)

Baldwin Lake - Take I-270 across the Jefferson Barracks Bridge to Illinois. Take Hwy 3 south to Redbud. Go east on Hwy 154 to Baldwin, IL. Follow signs in town to Lake Baldwin. Meet at the boat launch parking lot.

Conservation Report

Sue Gustafson, VP Conservation

Participate in a "hands-on" urban bird conservation project by volunteering at the fifth annual **"Free the Kennedy Woods" Honeysuckle Cut in Forest Park on Sunday, November 9** (rain date November 16). Kennedy Woods has historically been one of the finest urban stopover sites for migratory birds during spring and fall migration, but there is a large problem with invasive honeysuckle crowding out the native forest understory. Over the last four years, we've been highly successful at ridding certain areas of the woods of invasive honeysuckle by getting a turnout of over 90 people to cut and paint the stumps of the honeysuckle bushes, but our job isn't over yet! We need volunteers to work in 2-and 3-person teams to cut and paint the stumps with Roundup. We'll supply the Roundup, and volunteers are urged to bring their own gloves and saws, loppers, or pruning shears. It's hard work, but satisfying. Work at either of two shifts: 10:00 a.m. to noon or noon to 2:00 p.m. Meet at the shelter near the Kennedy Forest trailhead off of Wells Drive (west of the south zoo entrance). To sign up or get up-to-date information, go to <http://treeswallow.com/honeysuckle>, or phone me at 314-968-8128 or email smgustafson@juno.com or Jerry Farm at 314-644-4302 or email honeysuckle@treeswallow.com.

Sometimes the article deadlines and mailing process of our monthly newsletter do not make it conducive to keeping our membership apprised of late-breaking national conservation issues that can be influenced by public input. However, National Audubon provides a twice-monthly electronic **Audubon Advisory** legislative update that our members can receive by sending an email to audubonaction@audubon.org requesting to be set up to receive the Advisory. The Audubon Advisory provides timely information on such issues as legislation affecting funding levels of bird conservation programs, the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, the Endangered Species Act, national forest initiatives, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Upper Mississippi River issues, and numerous other topics of conservation interest. The Advisory provides many "click-on" links, many of which enable you to send an electronic message to YOUR Senator or Congressional Representative regarding the issue at hand. Take advantage of this convenient opportunity to stay abreast of issues affecting bird conservation and to make your voice heard.

New Members

Jane C. Allen
 Dr. M. J. Alter
 June Arra
 Donna G. Aubuchon
 Laurice Badino
 Ralph Barker
 Roland Bell
 David Bensing
 Jeanne Berger
 Doug Brock
 Rudy Brock
 Walter F. Brueggeman
 Betty Byron
 Ms. Carolyn Cain
 Mrs. Ralph Christian
 Jack Clark
 Nancy Clark
 Lori Clavenna
 Linda Colwell
 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Daly
 Sharon Davis
 Bobby Dell
 Rienette Diller
 Lucinda B. Dixon
 Charles J. Drew
 Evan V. Eastman
 Anthony D. Eckert
 Robert Ruth Ellmer
 Suzy Farren
 Vicki Ferguson
 Nancy Garrido
 Wanda L. Gines
 Linda Greer
 Janet Haddad
 D. T. Halwe
 Sue Shike Harbeson
 Judith Hodge
 Houts
 Jonathan W. Igoe
 Martha B. Israel
 Mr. Dale E. Johnson
 Ms. Doris Jones
 Mr. Phillip C. King
 Diane M. Lambole
 David Langness
 Betty Lark
 Marie Leibengood
 Steve Levit
 Ms. Mary Lopez
 Robert Lorenz
 Mr. Kenneth M. Markham
 Wyne Marty
 Mrs. Rosalie A. Mc. Dowell
 Charles E. Merrill
 Steve Mitten

Dr. Charles M. Muran
 David M. Near
 Paul F. Niedner
 Joseph D. Oldersworth
 Joanne Owens
 Mary Peistrup
 Florene Peterson
 Loretta T. Purk
 Mr. Edward J. Puzzella
 Sandra Quinlan
 Mr. John Salsman
 Catherine H. Schumann
 Paulette Zimmerman SSND
 Barbara E. Starr
 Hagop Tabakian
 Deborah Tennyson
 Mary Toon
 Robert Trapp
 Violet Vankamp
 Rebecca Wallace
 Patricia Watson
 Jane L. Weissman
 Michael Whyte
 Norman Wielansky
 Wild Birds Unlimited
 Julie G. Wilderman
 Paul Zemitzsch

Transfers

Michelle K. Conner
 Dr. A.R. McKinney
 Elaine Patterson

OOPS!

In the August issue of *Tale Feathers*, the St. Louis Audubon Society inadvertently left out the name of the Colonel with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who received a token of appreciation from our chapter during the NAS Board of Governors meeting in June. We wish to rectify that situation now. Colonel C. Kevin Williams received a copy of *Sibley's Guide to Birds* during the barge trip down river from the Confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Our sincerest apologies for this omission. We also want to Thank again the U.S. Army Corps for their help and support at Riverlands Demonstration Area.

Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2,500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2003 - 2004

St. Louis Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 220227
 Kirkwood, MO 63122
 Phone: 314-822-6595

Officers

President - Bill Salsgiver	636-225-1490
VP Education - Dale Ponce	636-394-6011
VP Conservation - Sue Gustafson	314-968-8128
VP Finance - Torrey Berger	314-579-9227
Treasurer - David Rabenau	314-968-8128
Secretary - Mary Smidt	636-227-6127

Board members

Anne Bolte	314-832-0938
Cathy Devine	314-962-3460
Joe Eades	314-966-3171
Mike Grant	636-519-0208
Anne Rankin Horton	636-256-3402
Dency Kahn	dkahn@stlcc.edu
Mitch Leachman	314-739-5112
Pat Lueders	314-961-6614
Jerry Miller	314-389-3969
Arthur Montgomery	314-822-1215
Sharon Nickl	636-391-8751
Dave Pierce	314-434-1651
John Solodar	314-862-5294
Mike Thelen	314-862-6642
Linda Tossing	314-849-4260
Dave Tylka	636-942-3142

Attention!

The deadline for the Dec/Jan. issue is **November 10**. Send inquiries to Anne by

E-mail ambolte@swbell.net
 phone 314.832.0938
 post 6939 Sharp
 St. Louis, MO 63116

St. Louis Audubon Society

P.O. Box 220227

St. Louis, Mo. 63122

Ph: 314.822.6595

www.stlouisaudubon.org

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. LOUIS, MO.
PERMIT NO. 5128



a member of Earth Share
of Missouri

Join the St. Louis Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society

As a joint member with National Audubon, you will receive National Audubon's quarterly magazine (Audubon) as well as St. Louis Audubon Society's Newsletter (Tale Feathers). Now you also have the opportunity to join only the St. Louis Audubon Society, receive Tale Feathers, and participate in the educational and conservation activities of St. Louis Audubon. There is no distinction between individual and family membership. Dues cover all members at the same address. For information, call (314) 822-6595.

St. Louis Audubon Society / National Audubon Society -- Membership Application

Use this form to join St. Louis Audubon / National Audubon

For joint membership in St. Louis Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

_____ Membership / \$35 For renewal in the National Audubon Society we recommend that you use the forms supplied by National Audubon. For more information contact Anne Rankin Horton at 636-256-3402

Membership in only the St. Louis Audubon Society. Write checks payable to **SLAS**. Mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

_____ Local Chapter Membership only (St. Louis Audubon Society), Introductory and renewal. / \$15

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ NO1 7XCH